

PATENT

REMARKS

In the Office Action, claims 1 and 2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Number 6,539,259 to Weinberg et al.

In the Office Action, claims 3 and 4 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In response thereto, claims 1 and 2 have been cancelled and claim 3 has been amended. Accordingly, claims 3 and 4 are now pending. Following is a discussion of the patentability of each of the pending claims.

Independent Claim 3

In the Office Action, claim 3 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In response, claim 3 has been rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of base claim 1 and intervening claim 2. It is respectfully submitted that amended claim 3 is in condition for allowance.

Dependent Claim 4

Claim 4 depends from claim 3 and is similarly patentable. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claim 4 is in condition for allowance.

PATENT

CONCLUSION

In light of the above claim amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance, and an early notice of allowance is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

10/8/04
Date

Ronald S. Tamura
Ronald S. Tamura, Reg. No. 43,179
Patent Attorney for Applicant

CUSTOMER NUMBER: 36802